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ROAD TO 11TH JS POLLS

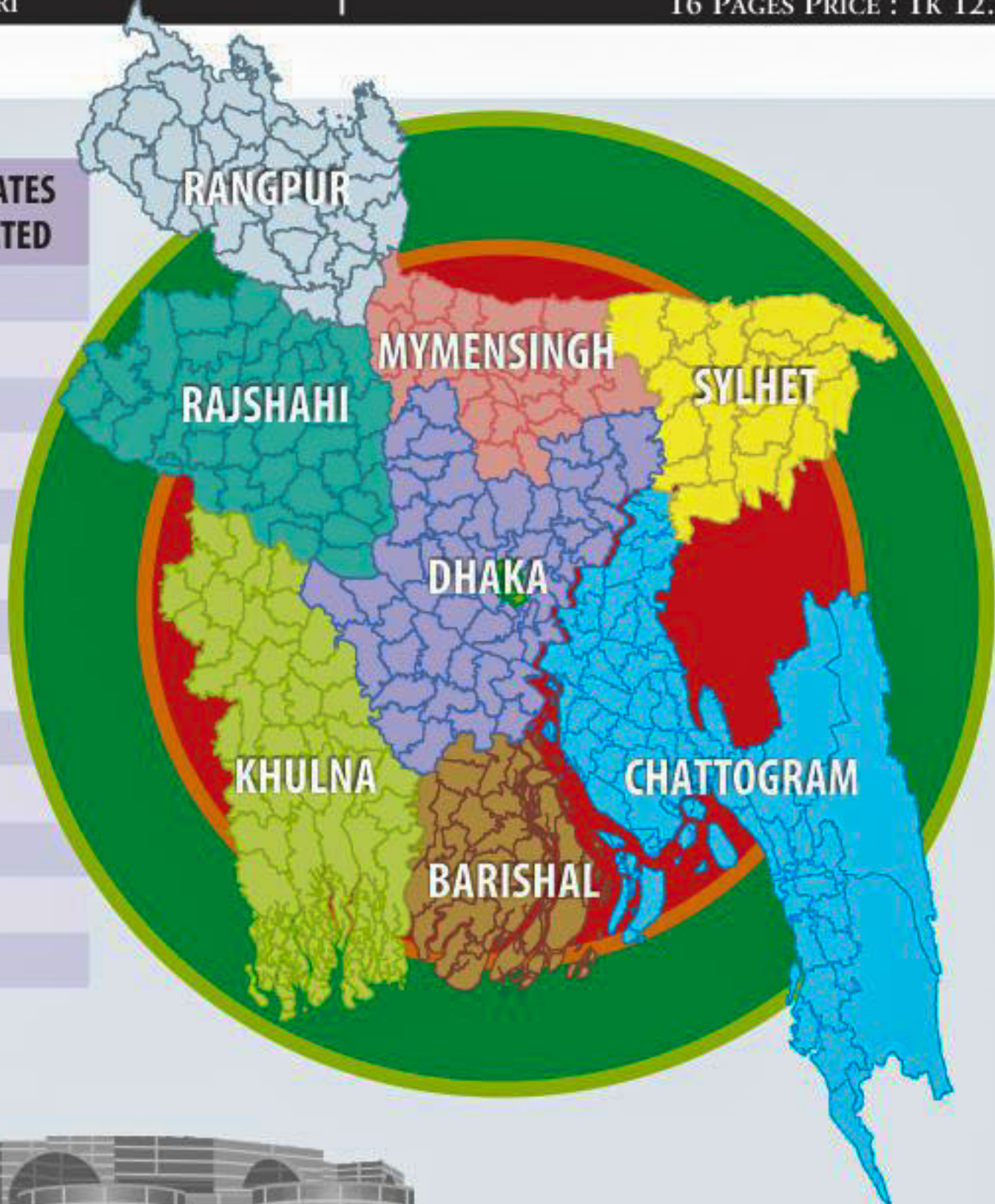
Timeline of past general elections, in pictures and facts

PAGE 7



- VOTING TIME:**
8:00AM to 4:00 PM (without break)
- CONSTITUENCY:**
299 (One stayed for death of a candidate)
- VOTERS: 10,38,26,823**
- MALE VOTERS: 5,23,71,620**
- FEMALE VOTERS: 5,14,55,203**
- POLLING CENTRES: 40,051**
- POLLING BOOTHS: 2,05,691**
- EVM: 6 constituencies**
[Dhaka-6, 13, Chattogram-9, Rangpur-3, Khulna-2 and Satkhira-2]
- CONTESTING POLITICAL PARTIES: 39**
- TOTAL CONTENDERS: 1,861**
- PARTY NOMINATED CONTENDERS: 1,733**
- INDEPENDENT: 128**

POLITICAL PARTY	CANDIDATES NOMINATED	POLITICAL PARTY	CANDIDATES NOMINATED	POLITICAL PARTY	CANDIDATES NOMINATED
Liberal Democratic Party	8	Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob)	19	BJP (Matin)	12
Jatiya Party (Monju)	11	Zaker Party	90	Islami Front Bangladesh	18
Samyabadi Dal	2	Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal	45	Kalyan Party	2
Krishak Sramik Janata League	9	BJP (Andaleeve)	2	Islami Oikyajote	24
CPB	74	Tarikat Federation	17	Bangladesh Khelafat Mojlish	5
Awami League	261	Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon	23	Islami Andolon Bangladesh	298
BNP	272	Bangladesh Muslim League	48	Bangladesh Islami Front	25
Gonotantri Party	6	National Peoples' Party	79	Jagpa	4
National Awami Party	9	Jamiat-e-Ulama-e Islam	8	Biplobi Workers Party	28
Jatiya Party	176	Gonoforum	27	Khelafat Mojlish	12
Bikalpadhara Bangladesh	25	Gonofront	13	BML	1
Workers Party	8	PDP	14	Muktijote	2
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal	12	Bangladesh NAP	3	BNF	57



PARTICIPATORY polls, for sure

Country to know if it's free or fair at end of the day, today

SHAKHAWAT LITON

After ten years, Bangladesh is back to a participatory election of sorts. Parties of all hue and colour are contesting the polls that is going to be held today. But the buck stops here.

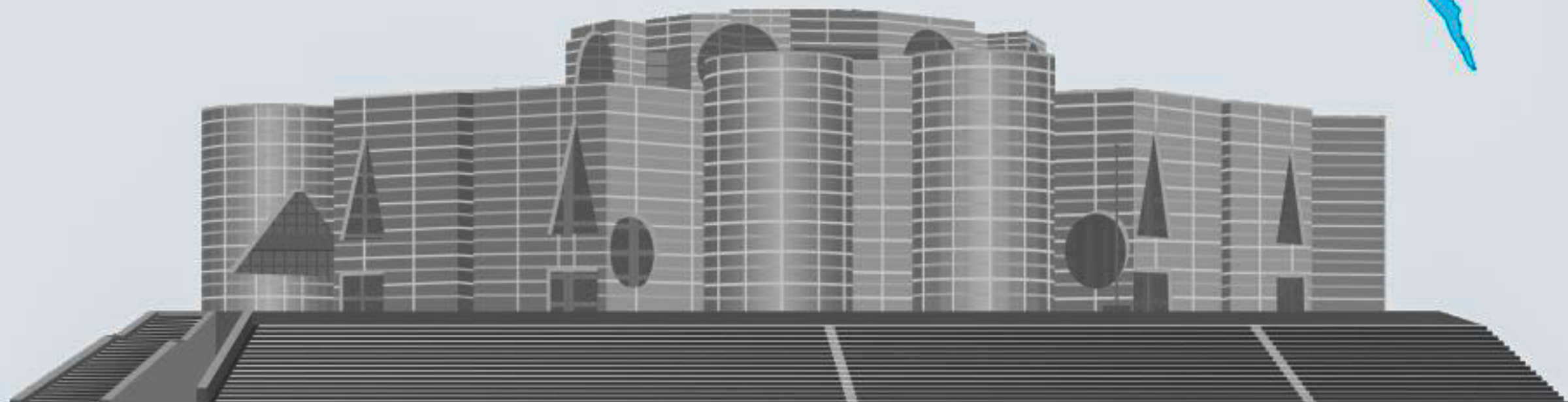
Beyond the jacket of all those weighty words, Bangladesh is also going to see a very different kind of election where the main opposition parties were hardly visible in campaigns, their leaders and activists harassed, harried and attacked, and the police extended their long tenuous arm to arrest thousands of opposition men.

Elections have become mostly festive affairs for Bangladesh when even the person at the lowest rung of

the society suddenly feels important as candidates go from house to house, seeking their votes. But this time that spirit has faced a damp squib as only the ruling party was visible in campaigns, that too with a much lower enthusiasm.

Also for the first time, a participatory election is going to be held without parliament being dissolved (it was not dissolved in 2014 too but the BNP-led alliance and other opposition parties boycotted the election) and with a party government in office since 1991, when a system was developed for conducting national elections under a neutral administration.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



MAJOR SYMBOLS

BOAT 272

SHEAF OF PADDY 280

PLOUGH 176

MANPOWER

Returning officers: **66**
Assistant returning officers: **582**
Presiding officers: **40,183**
Assistant presiding officers: **2,07,312**
Polling officers: **4,14,624**
SECURITY FORCE
Total law enforcers: **6,08,000**
Police: **1,21,000**

Ansar: **4,46,000**
Village police: **41,000**
Rab: **600 platoons**
BGB: **983 platoons**
Armed forces: **414 platoons Army** and **48 platoons Navy**
Coastguard: **30 platoons**
Executive magistrates: **1,382**
Judicial magistrates: **640**

Election investigation teams: **122**
OBSERVER
Local observer organisations: **81**
Local observers: **25,900**
Foreign observers: **38**
Foreign mission officials: **64**
Bangladeshi observers working in foreign missions: **61**
Budget: **Tk 700 crore**

Be tough to keep order

CEC asks law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday directed law enforcers to deal with the law and order situation with an iron fist in case there was any violence on the polling day today.

"If anyone tries to create any sort of disorder at the polling centres, law enforcers will bring the situation under control," he said at a press conference at the capital's Nirbachan Bhavan.

"We will investigate and take action in case we find any negligence on part of the law enforcement agencies or their attitude



SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Make sure election not questionable

Hasina urges people

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to make sure that parliamentary polls were not questionable in any way.

"All the people will have to watch out so that no one can make the elections questionable in any way. The candidates, leaders and workers of the Awami League and Mohajote [grand alliance] will have to keep patience in this regard," she said.

The PM was talking to journalists after visiting injured Dinajjpur AL leader Mahbubur Rahman at



Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka. Mahbubur was injured in an attack allegedly from BNP-Jamaat men.

Hasina, also the AL president, asked the party representatives and candidates' agents to stay in every polling centre until the announcement of the results.

"I would like to tell all who are contesting the elections from our party and alliance to stay at the polling centres till the last moment of voting and return home with results sheets signed by returning

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Cast ballots without fear

Army chief tells voters, says troops are there to prevent violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed yesterday

told voters to go to the polling centres and cast their votes without fear as the army would be around.

"I am telling the voters to go to the polling centres without any fear. You cast your votes; we will be around...We are trying our best so that no one can create any anarchy," he said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Aziz Ahmed

Oikyafront will win if polls fair

Says Dr Kamal, urges people to cast votes without fear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the voters to go to polling centres early in the morning and cast votes without fear.

"I urge the voters to go to polling stations early in the morning and cast ballots. Don't be afraid. If you go there, criminals will flee. They cannot withstand the people's strength," he told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

Replying to a query, the eminent jurist hoped people would vote for the Oikyafront candidates if today's election is held in a free and fair manner.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

WEALTH ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES

The Daily Star has crunched the numbers and data of over 550 candidates' affidavits submitted to the Election Commission ahead of the polls. To have a glimpse of the analysed data, **SEE PAGE 2.**

NO BUSINESS FOR 3 DAYS

Business pages will not be published for three days from today (Sunday to Tuesday) as economic activities will slow down due to general election and bank holidays.

Test case for polls under a political govt

Rounaq Jahan tells

The Daily Star

Eminent political scientist Rounaq Jahan thinks the election is a test case to demonstrate that in Bangladesh it is possible to organise a free, fair and competitive election under an elected political government. In an interview with The Daily Star, she shared her thoughts about the upcoming election. Following is the full interview taken by Mohammad Al Masum Molla.

DS: What's the importance of this election for the future of our democracy?

Rounaq Jahan (RJ): This election is important for our democracy for a variety of reasons. Let me highlight just two. First, this election created an opportunity to renew our commitment to competitive elections. As we all know the last parliamentary election was not competitive. The main opposition party, the BNP boycotted the election and the majority of parliamentarians were "elected" uncontested. The opposition in parliament, the Jatiya



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Law enforcers carrying voting materials inside Willes Little Flower School in the capital's Kakrail yesterday. The school is one of the polling centres for the 11th parliamentary election today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No alternative to free and fair polls

Akbar Ali Khan tells

The Daily Star

Former Cabinet Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan says there is no alternative to a free and fair election for sake of strengthening democracy. In an interview with The Daily Star, he talks on different aspects of the election. Mohammad Al Masum Molla and Wasim Bin Habib conducted the interview. Below is the full text of the interview.

TDS: What's the importance of this election for our democracy?

Akbar Ali Khan (AAK): This election is very important for the country. In the last 30 years, all the elections were held under a caretaker government, except the last one, which was not participatory. This time, the election is going to be held under a partisan government and the opposition parties are participating. Participation of all the parties under a partisan government is a positive sign for the country's politics. But the concern is that still the major two political parties are involved in violence. If the election result is not accepted by all, especially



SEE PAGE 10 COL 5